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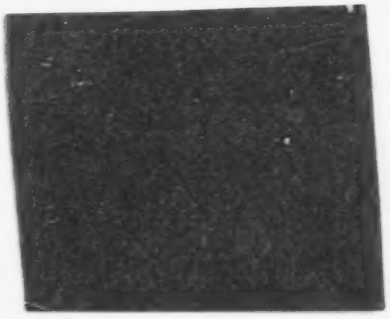
COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS ACTING AS PREPARATORY BODY FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES
First session
Vienna, 26-27 March 1997



ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda*

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to consider the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities and to propose new strategies, methods, practical activities and specific measures to strengthen international cooperation in addressing the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

Annotations

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution XXXVIII, decided to keep under consideration the proposal to convene an international conference to review progress made by Governments and the United Nations system in combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1995/40, recommended that the General Assembly and the Commission give priority to considering such a proposal. The General Assembly, in its resolution 50/148, requested the Commission to discuss the proposal fully.

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*The General Assembly in its resolution 51/64, section IV, took note of the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for and possible outcome of a special session of the General Assembly on international drug control (A/51/469) and invited the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to bear in mind the recommendations contained in that report.

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On the recommendation of the Commission at its thirty-ninth session, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1996/17. In that resolution, the Council, convinced that the holding of a special session of the General Assembly devoted to the subject could make a significant contribution to the effectiveness of the actions of the United Nations and its Member States in the fight against that global threat, decided to recommend to the General Assembly to convene a special session in order to consider the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities.

The General Assembly in its resolution 51/64, section IV, decided to convene, for three days in June 1998, a special session in order to consider the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, and to propose new strategies, methods, practical activities and specific measures to strengthen international cooperation in addressing the problem of illicit drugs. In the same section of that resolution, the General Assembly decided that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should act as the preparatory body for the special session of the Assembly and that the preparatory body should be open-ended in its deliberations, allowing for the full participation of all States Members of the United Nations and of specialized agencies and observers, in accordance with the established practice.

The preparatory body is expected to meet in 1997 and 1998, during the fortieth and forty-first sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The Economic and Social Council, by its decision 1997/208, decided that the Commission at its fortieth session should devote two days of its eight-day session to acting as preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly. Therefore the 1st meeting of the preparatory body is scheduled to take place from 26 to 27 March 1997, after the Commission has completed its activities as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council and as governing body of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

Item 1

For the special segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, during which it will act as preparatory body for the special session, the Commission will have to elect new, or confirm existing, officers. New elections will be required because the composition of the Commission will change as it undertakes its role as preparatory body. This is because the Commission when acting as the preparatory body should be open-ended, allowing for the full participation of all States Members of the United Nations. Thus, the Commission will continue to function under the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975/Rev.1), but the members of the Commission when it is acting as the preparatory body will be all the Member States of the United Nations. Therefore, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure, the Commission should elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, one or more Vice-Chairmen and such other officers as may be required. The Commission when acting as the preparatory body should elect its bureau from among the representatives of all Member States of the United Nations. The Commission will be free to elect as many officers as it deems advisable. If the Commission decides to follow its usual practice, the bureau of the preparatory body will also consist of one chairman, three vice-chairmen and one rapporteur. The Commission acting as preparatory body will also be free to decide whether to elect new officers or to maintain the bureau elected for the regular segment of its session. If the Commission decides to elect new officers, it should be borne in mind that an officer elected for the regular segment of the fortieth session of the Commission may also be elected for the preparatory body.

The normal practice of a preparatory body for a major United Nations conference, analogous to the special session of the General Assembly, is to maintain its officers throughout the period of activity of the preparatory process in order to ensure continuity with respect to its work. That position was also supported at informal consultations with permanent missions to the United Nations at Vienna, during which there was consensus that the officers of the bureau of the preparatory body should remain in office for all meetings of that body up to the

holding of the special session. In that case, unless the Commission decides otherwise, the usual rotation of officers will still take place in the regular segment of the forty-first session of the Commission, while the bureau of the special segment will remain unchanged.

Item 2

After the election of its bureau, the preparatory body will adopt its agenda and timetable for the current session and will address other organizational matters. It will therefore be called upon to decide how it wishes to organize its work for the first session, including considering the establishment of working groups if so required. The preparatory body will need to divide its time between substantive and procedural questions, placing emphasis on the latter at its first session.

In addition, the preparatory body will need to consider its agenda and timetable for its second session. It may wish to ascertain whether any inter-sessional meetings will be needed or whether other specific activities will be required between its first and second sessions. The draft provisional agenda for the second session of the preparatory body, as proposed by the Secretary-General in his report on the preparations for and possible outcome of the special session of the General Assembly (A/51/469, para. 24), is reproduced in the report of the Executive Director on procedural issues to be considered in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.7/1997/PC/2).

The preparatory body should review that proposal with a view to determining what adjustments, if any, are called for. In particular, it may wish to confirm that a single report will be prepared reflecting both its first and second sessions, together with any inter-sessional activity that needs to be reported on. That approach would seem advisable because of the extremely short time-frame for the first session. Procedural matters examined at the first session of the preparatory body that will require action by the General Assembly before the second session could be included in draft recommendations to be transmitted to the Assembly for its consideration.

Item 3

Item 3 consists of two distinct elements: procedural matters, which need to be acted on by the General Assembly in order to move forward with preparations for organizing the special session, and substantive matters, which relate to issues that require attention and action by the Assembly in order to ensure a positive outcome of the special session.

Procedural matters

The preparatory body should consider making recommendations on the following paying due regard to the rules of procedure and practices of the General Assembly: the exact title, draft provisional agenda and dates of the special session; the composition of the bureau; the establishment of an ad hoc committee; and the membership of the Credentials Committee and of the General Committee.

A document prepared by the Secretariat containing draft recommendations on these matters will be before the Commission to assist it in its consideration of item 3.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 51/64, recognized the need for the active involvement of non-governmental organizations in preparations for the special session in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements for their contribution during the special session. The preparatory body may wish to consider ways to respond to General Assembly resolution 51/64 in that regard.

Documentation

Report of the Executive Director on procedural issues to be considered in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.7/1997/PC/2)

Substantive matters

The outcome of the three-day special session of the General Assembly will largely be governed by the substantive issues that the Assembly will consider during that session. For example, the updating of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session (General Assembly resolution S-17/2) and the adoption of a declaration on the guiding principles for the reduction of illicit drug demand, which have been suggested, will clearly require an in-depth evaluation of a number of issues. The Commission is called on to assist the General Assembly in identifying both the possible outcome of the special session and the issues to be examined to achieve that outcome.

The Secretary-General, in his report on preparations for and possible outcome of a special session of the General Assembly on international drug control (A/51/469), identified the following issues that could form the basis for the deliberations at the special session: the review of the international drug control instruments; the prevention of diversion of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs; the strengthening of measures against the abuse of and trafficking in stimulants; the reduction of the illicit demand for drugs; the prevention of and action against money-laundering; illicit crop eradication and alternative development; judicial cooperation; coordination in the fight against drug trafficking and related organized crime, against terrorist groups engaged in drug trafficking and against illicit arms trade; and the strengthening of the United Nations machinery for international drug control.

In the report of the Executive Director on substantive issues to be considered by the General Assembly at its special session (E/CN.7/1997/PC/3), all issues currently being suggested for review will be grouped under five main headings: (a) review of implementation of the Global Programme of Action; (b) adherence to and the implementation of the international drug control treaties (including judicial cooperation, the prevention of precursor diversion, the increased control of stimulants and the prevention of and sanctions against money-laundering); (c) the reduction of illicit drug demand; (d) illicit crop eradication and alternative development; and (e) the strengthening of international cooperation.

Documentation

Report of the Executive Director on substantive issues to be considered by the General Assembly at its special session (E/CN.7/1997/PC/3)

Provisional timetable

Wednesday, 26 March 1997

1st meeting 10 a.m-1 p.m.	*Item 1.* Election of officers *Item 2.* Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters *Item 3.* Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to consider the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities and to propose new strategies, methods, practical activities and specific measures to strengthen international cooperation in addressing the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking

2nd meeting — *Item 3.* (continued)
3-6 p.m.

Thursday, 27 March 1997

3rd meeting — *Item 3.* (continued)
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

4th meeting — *Item 3.* (continued)
3-6 p.m.